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Flowering Shrubs for all Seasons

By C. C. HILLARY

Fig. 1.—The sweetly-perfumed Plumiera or frangipanni.

NO garden is really complete without some shrubs and, where the area is large enough, a well-chosen collection can form an attractive feature throughout the year. Unfortunately, there are some who look upon shrubs merely as masses of evergreens suitable for filling odd corners or for providing screens. When planted with this unimaginative viewpoint in mind, they can hardly fail to be uninteresting and may, at times, be even unsightly.

Yet, so wide is the variety of plants from which a choice can be made that, instead of the monotony of evergreens such as privet, it is possible to secure subjects which combine attractive foliage with seasonal displays of delightful bloom. The wide range also makes it an easy matter to choose and plant shrubs which will provide a succession of flowers the whole year through.

In addition to their individual value as specimens for lawns and prominent positions, shrubs are also of the greatest use for providing backgrounds (and shade when required) for other flowers and for giving “height” to flat gardens.

The varying greens, greys and purples in a bank of foliage formed by a selection of shrubs planted in irregular formation around a drive, or a walk, can also form an attractive picture in any garden.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT POSITION

Most shrubs are easily cultivated, but that does not mean that they will prosper in any old soil or position. Some, like that beautiful foliage shrub, Phyllanthus rosea, are happy in full sunshine all day; others, such as most of the camellias, enjoy life better when they are shaded from the sun in the afternoon. Others again, like daphnes, gardenias, azaleas and fuchsias, do better in positions which are fully shaded for most of the day.

Once a shrub is planted, it should remain an honoured guest in the garden for many years. In view of this, it is only reasonable that it should be given a good start in life by being planted in a well-prepared site.

The soil should be enriched with old manure, blood and bone and compost, and, if the ground is heavy or low-lying, care
should be taken to see that it is efficiently drained. No shrub will thrive for long with its roots in stagnant water.

Another important point which should receive attention is the distance allowed between the shrubs. Far too often they are planted so closely together that within a few years they become overcrowded and some have to be removed—often when they are just coming to their best.

All shrubs should be given enough room to stretch their limbs in comfort. Let the height govern the distance apart. As a general rule, this is a fairly reliable guide. A shrub that grows 8ft. high should be allowed a circle of soil not less than 8ft. in diameter, a 6ft. shrub 6ft. and so on.

One more thing worth remembering when planting a group of shrubs is to place them so that they will all get a fair share of air and light. Do not surround a small shrub with three or four large ones. If you do, it will be hidden from view as soon as they grow up.

Life in a garden is said to commence in spring and, while that may be true in cold countries, it is hardly so here. However, to help those who wish to have shrubs in flower at all seasons of the years, I am commencing my recommendations with those that flower in spring.

**SPRING FLOWERING**

One of the earliest to flower is the lovely *Diervilla conquete*, which carries masses of dainty, pink bells down the full length of the stems. Of deciduous habit, it grows about 7ft. high and has very nice, light-green foliage.

A handsome native of South Africa, named *Psoralea pinnata*, produces its blue, pea-shaped flowers much about the same time. An evergreen, it will do better work in a cool district than a hot one but, wherever it grows, it will prove enjoyable. Height 6ft.

The salmon-pink *Rondeletia amoena*, with sprays of flowers after the style of a hydrangea usually commences flowering a little later—in October—and continues well into summer. The evergreen foliage is most attractive, but is easily damaged by frost. A really lovely shrub. Height 6ft.

*Ceanothus Edwardsii* is a handsome evergreen with small, shiny-green leaves, which spreads a mantle of blue in October and November. One of the finest of all blue-flowering shrubs and an easy one to grow, it also attains a height of about 6ft.

*Choisya ternata* is often known by the name of Mexican Orange Blossom owing to the delicious perfume of its flowers. It blooms for a number of weeks in spring and carries its closely-packed foliage all the year. Height about 4ft.

Then there is the Gardenia which commences flowering in late spring and continues into summer. Not satisfied with this, it blooms again in autumn. Most
attractive, glossy-green leaves make it worth growing for its foliage alone. Requires a shady position. Height 5ft.

The Chinese Lantern with the botanical name of *Abutilon* is yet another shrub I can recommend for its spring flowering. The orange-scarlet variety Eclipse is one of the best and it continues flowering over most of the summer. Of evergreen habit, it grows to about 6ft.

Although mentioned last, I consider *Brunfelsia latifolia* the most beautiful of all spring-flowering shrubs and that is saying quite a lot. An evergreen with bright-green foliage, which turns to bronzy-green in winter, it literally covers itself with blue and white flowers in October and November and then blooms intermittently until the end of autumn. Height 5ft.

**SUMMER FLOWERING**

In this section we have some very lovely shrubs indeed. Perhaps the finest is the *Lagerstroemia*, which commences flowering at the beginning of January and then continues to decorate every stem end with great bunches of dainty, crepe-like blossoms until the end of March. There are several varieties and they are all beautiful. A deciduous shrub, it requires really hard pruning each winter. Height 7ft.

The best of the summer-flowering evergreens is the Hibiscus. What pictures varieties like Agnes Galt (crimson) and Apple Blossom (pale pink) are capable of creating. They require warmth and water and do well near the seaside. Two other lovely varieties are Cameo Queen, a rich yellow with delightful pink stamens and Mrs. G. R. Davis, salmon flowers and most attractive bright green foliage. Height 5ft. to 10ft.

*Clerodendron ugandense* is a fine shrub for a warm situation, but it requires plenty of water. The blue flowers resemble butterflies and are very lovely. Evergreen. Height 5ft.

*Plumiera* which is better known as Frangipanni is already a popular shrub. A native of the tropics, it is suitable for planting only in frost free areas and requires plenty of water in summer. While there is a certain stiffness about the foliage, the flowers are freely produced over most of the summer and are sweetly perfumed. It is deciduous and grows to a height of 8ft.

The *Lasiandra* is a beautiful shrub which carries its rich purply-blue flowers through summer and autumn. It requires a warm position and objects to frost. To keep it shapely, it should be pruned at the end of winter. Sometimes the family name of *Tibouchina* is used instead of *Lasiandra*. Evergreen. Height 7ft.
AUTUMN FLOWERING

Some of the shrubs mentioned in the summer list continue flowering well into autumn. The gardenia, *Abutilon* and *Brunfelsia*, which are included in the spring list, also flower in autumn.

One of the loveliest of the real autumn flowering shrubs is *Cassia candolleana*. With its very rich, pea-shaped, yellow flowers it reminds me very much of the laburnums which thrive so well in colder countries. *Cassia candolleana* carries its flowers in great clusters for six or eight weeks and the bright green foliage is attractive all the year. Height 6ft.

Other beautiful autumn shrubs are the *Cotoneasters* and *Pyracanthas* which adorn themselves with red or orange berries and carry them through the autumn and winter almost into spring.

One of the finest *Cotoneasters* is *Pannosa*, which has silver-green foliage and scarlet berries clustered in thick masses down every stem and limb. Another is *Serotina* which has large foliage and large scarlet berries, carried in bunches. Many of the leaves assume crimson tints in autumn. Both are evergreen and grow to 8ft.

The two finest *Pyracanthas* are *Yunnanensis* and *Lalandei*. The former has scarlet berries and the latter deep orange. Both are easily grown in almost any soil. *Yunnanensis* is of spreading growth; about
5ft. high and 8ft. across. *Lalandei* grows in normal fashion to 6ft. The only objectionable feature about these shrubs is the prickles.

*Holmskoilda* is another attractive autumn shrub with blood-red flowers. It does not grow much above 3ft. high in this climate and is evergreen. It does best in a warm, sheltered position and requires liberal watering in summer.

**WINTER FLOWERING**

In this section we have the finest of all evergreen shrubs, the very lovely *Camellia*. There are numerous varieties and they flower all winter. Even when the blooms are absent, their highly polished foliage makes them exceedingly ornamental. One of the loveliest scarlet varieties is the Czar with large, almost single flowers with charming golden stamens.

Another is the salmon-coloured Edward Billing with flowers that resemble huge paeonies. No one will ever regret planting this glorious camellia. Then there is Purity, a formal white with flowers so chaste that one can sit and admire them for hours.

Emperor Variegata, a rich crimson with white blotches, is another charming sort, and so is Odoratissima, a lovely bright scarlet and one of the few camellias that have perfumed flowers. All are evergreen. Height from 4ft. to 10ft.

The sweetly perfumed *Daphne* which grows 4ft. high and up to 5ft. across also flowers all winter. It requires full shade or nearly so and, like the camellia, it does best in an acid soil.

The pink and red-flowered *Leptospermums* should be much more popular than they are. They carry masses of flowers in winter and early spring and grow readily in most loamy soils that are kept reasonably moist in summer. All are evergreen and they range from 3ft. to 5ft. in height.

The blue-flowered *Veronica Andersonii* is also well worth growing for its winter flowers. It has attractive, small green foliage and forms a very neat bush with the assistance of an occasional trimming. Evergreen. Height 5ft to 6ft.

It is during their first year in the garden that the shrubs you plant will need your assistance most. It is then that they dig their toes in an endeavour to make themselves comfortable.

Make sure that they do not want for water, keep them well secured to stakes so that they will not be blown over by wind, and place a good mulch of old manure, straw, or compost around them at the end of spring.

In the second year they will be fairly well established and better able to stand on their own feet. A helping hand, however, will always be appreciated and rewarded with additional flowers and better foliage.

**CONCRETE**

Making concrete is not always the same as making good concrete. To make good concrete, it is necessary to know certain essential rules and to see that they are observed.

Frequent faults and failures in concrete, particularly in small jobs, indicate either a lack of knowledge of the requirements for making good concrete, or neglect in observing these requirements. If concrete is to behave well, whether as a footing, as paving, or in the structure, the raw materials must be up to the required standard of quality, and the mix proportions specified must be correct. Careful workmanship in mixing and placing is essential, and an adequate period of curing under proper conditions must be observed.

It is believed that the latest Note on the Science of Building, NSB No. 28—"Concrete," will be welcomed by concrete users, particularly those without the benefit of technical instructions in good concrete practice. In concise readable form, advice is given for "making dense Portland-cement concrete for use in situ in small building construction for such parts as footings, columns, beams and slabs."

Notes on the Science of Building NSB No. 28—"Concrete," price 9d., postage included, published by the Commonwealth Experimental Building Station, may be obtained from the Station, Box 30, Chatswood, New South Wales; or from the Building Research Liaison Service, Box 2807 AA, Melbourne.
No other modern scientific farming practice takes as little time, effort and money as **NODULAID** inoculation of legumes ... yet no other practice pays the farmer so handsomely, and so soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Planting Rate per Acre</th>
<th>Inoculation Cost per Acre (incl. labour at 7/6 an hr.)</th>
<th>Benefits Needed to Pay Inoculation Costs</th>
<th>Average Quantity of Nitrogen Fixed per ac.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lb. per Acre Extra Seed</td>
<td>lb. per Acre of Nitrogen Fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Clover</td>
<td>1½ lb.</td>
<td>10d.</td>
<td>1/10th lb.</td>
<td>1/2 lb. nitrogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>4 lb.</td>
<td>1/2d.</td>
<td>1/5th lb.</td>
<td>2/3rd lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucerne</td>
<td>15 lb.</td>
<td>4/4d.</td>
<td>1/2 lb.</td>
<td>2 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Peas</td>
<td>4 lb.</td>
<td>1/2d.</td>
<td>1/4 lb.</td>
<td>2/3rd lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetch</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>8 lb.</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub. Clover</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>11 lb.</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupins</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>10 lb.</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
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Value of nitrogen fixed (last column) based on nitrogen as a commercial fertilizer, would be much higher if based on increases in yields of following crops, due to increased nitrogen content in soil.

The extra available nitrogen taken from the air, and added to the plant by **NODULAID** can make spectacular increases in yields. But there are also other benefits ... less spectacular ... but just as valuable. Protein content is higher making better feed. Plants are more vigorous ... and crops grown during the following years benefit from the extra nitrogen left in the soil.

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**A TRACTOR HANDBOOK**

Written for farmers, farm workers and agricultural students who want to know not only how a tractor should be used but also how it works, this fifth edition of "TRACTORS ON THE FARM" has been enlarged and drastically revised.

Using a clear and simple style throughout, and with the help of many drawings and photographs, the author describes the mechanical principles of all classes of tractor in greater detail than before, paying special attention to the increasingly popular diesel engine. The merits of different tractor fuels and the factors to consider in choosing a tractor, including the British Standard and National Institute of Agricultural Engineering tests, are discussed. Several chapters are devoted to the important topics of servicing and maintaining a tractor. Other points covered include using accessories, carrying out conversions, the requirements of comfort and safety, and the buildings and installations ancillary to tractor operation.

To conclude, the author gives tips on how to get the best out of a tractor.

Previous editions of this book have been recommended text books for the syllabus for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Agriculture of Cambridge University, and were also on the lists for the National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering and the City and Guilds Farm Operator’s Certificate. In framing the present edition, therefore, care has been taken to ensure that the current requirements of these examinations are met as far as the subject of tractors is concerned. Moreover it remains the best practical guide to the man who wants to get the utmost service out of his tractor in the field.


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